

Pascagoula Public Library  
 Local History & Genealogy Department  
 Fort Family History

IND'S NAME LESTER FORT  
 Born 1797 Where Edgefield District, S.C.  
 Listened \_\_\_\_\_ Where \_\_\_\_\_  
 Died \_\_\_\_\_ Where \_\_\_\_\_  
 Buried \_\_\_\_\_ Where \_\_\_\_\_  
 Married 1824 Where \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Wife's Name)  
 Father William Fort His Mother's Maiden Name \_\_\_\_\_

Information on this sheet obtained from

(Husband's F

(Wife's Maid

Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Compiler \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_

PASCAGOULA LIBRARY  
 GENEALOGY COLLECTION  
 DO NOT CIRCULATE

MAIDEN NAME Betsy KEMP  
 Born \_\_\_\_\_ Where \_\_\_\_\_  
 Listened \_\_\_\_\_ Where \_\_\_\_\_  
 Died \_\_\_\_\_ Where \_\_\_\_\_  
 Buried \_\_\_\_\_ Where \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Husb.  
 my)  
 Father \_\_\_\_\_ Her Mother's Maiden Name \_\_\_\_\_

See other side also

Line No.	CHILDREN (Arrange in order of birth)	When Born			Where Born		State or Country	Married to	When Married			When Died*			Where Buried
		Day	Month	Year	Town or Place	County			Day	Month	Year	Day	Month	Year	
1	Drewery ALAMANZA	11	MAR	1834				JANE TIPPINS Dees				17	AUG	1917	GRAND BAY
2	William							GEORGINA MARTIN							
3	BENJAMIN							LUCINDA Lovejoy (see back)-				5	OCT	1856	
4	JAMES							Killed in Civil War							
5	TRAVIS														
6	ELIZABETH							DAVE SUMMERLIN							
7	MARY							JACOB RICKARD ?							
8	Betsy							John Dees							
9	Holly Middleton	12	MAY	1836	Mobile		ALA	MARY RICKARD	19	AUG	1860	27	JULY	1902	BUENA VISTA
10															
11															
12															
13															

Pascagoula Public Library  
 Local History & Genealogy Department  
 Fort Family History

HUSBAND'S NAME <u>BENJAMIN Kemp FORT</u>							Information on this sheet obtained from							
When Born	<u>1829</u>			Where	PASCAGOULA LIBRARY GENEALOGY COLLECTION DO NOT CIRCULATE			Date	(Husband's)					
Christened				Where				Compiler						
When Died				Where				Address						
When Buried				Where				City						
When Married	<u>5 OCT 1856</u>			Where	<u>HOUSE OF MRS. ELLIOTT - Mobile Co.</u>									
Other Wives (if any)														
His Father	<u>Lester Fort b. SC.</u>			His Mother's Maiden Name	<u>Betsy Kemp</u>			<u>Mobile Co. MARRIAGES</u>						
WIFE'S MAIDEN NAME	<u>LUCINDA Loveroy</u>			(WIDOW)			<u>Census 1860 - Mobile Co.</u>							
When Born	<u>1829</u>			Where										
Christened				Where										
When Died				Where										
When Buried				Where										
Other Husband (if any)														
Her Father				Her Mother's Maiden Name										
Male or Female	CHILDREN (Arrange in order of birth)			When Born	Where Born	State or Country	Married to	When Married	When Died*	Where				
	Day	Month	Year	Town or Place	County			Day	Month	Year	Town or Place			
1	<u>ELIZA HELEN</u>			<u>19 MAR 1857</u>	<u>Mobile</u>	<u>Mobile</u>	<u>ALA</u>	<u>LAWRENCE W. GRAY</u>			<u>1933</u>			
2	<u>MARY A.J.</u>			<u>1858</u>										
3	<u>Kemp</u>			<u>1870</u>										
4	<u>EMMA V.</u>			<u>1866</u>			<u>NAT BOLTON</u>							
5														
6														
7														
8														
9														
10														
11														
12														
13														

Pascagoula Public Library  
Local History & Genealogy Department  
Fort Family History

1850 Mo/Co

Shows This Lester Fort

m. To MARY B. GA. age 44

Dick, Holland, Alex, Mary, James, Nathaniel, Wm.

1 spouse - Jane Tippins Dees - b. 4 NOV. 1840 d. 3 MAY 1904  
d/o Calvin E. Deas b. OCT 31, 1819 d. MAY 22, 1867  
Mary Charlotte Tippins - born NOV. 8, 1821  
(buried JACKSON CREEK) died. MAR. 5, 1889

See "Family called FORT"

2 - "Family called Fort says Ben's wife was a miss BOLTON ?? WAS she 1st wife ?

1860 Census - Mobile Co.

Benk Fort

Lucinda

Mary A.S. 2

Elyza 1

Lester 64 f. 1746 SC.

1870

1870 Mo/Co

Alomango Fort 35 f. Ma.

Jone 28

Lee 4

Medora 2

Wm Summerlin 21

1880

D.A. Fort 45 Y.S.C.

Jane - 39

medora 11

L. Alomango, Abbott K.

1880 Wilcox Co. Pineapple Beat

Benjamin Fort - 50

Lucinda 50

Emma V 14

Elliott K 10

Wm. (nephew) 18

Lester, Father, 81 F.S.C.

Pascagoula Public Library  
Local History & Genealogy Department  
Fort Family History

MARGIE KIRBY EZELL  
7750 Moffett Road  
Mobile, Alabama 36618  
Telephone (334) 649-2321

- ① Lester Fort & Betsy Kemp
- ② Betsy Fort & David Summerlin
- ③ Nancy Jane Summerlin & Marion Dees Crenshaw
- ④ Julia Melinda Crenshaw &  
George Augusta Crooker
- ⑤ Mary Margaret Crooker  
& Clifton Lyle Kirby
- ⑥ Margie Ann Kirby

NOTE: As you can see, this is a very brief listing of my connections to the Fort's lineage -

If you have info on the above - especially the Crookers & Summerlins' - please contact me or my husband - Your help will be deeply appreciated.  
By the same token, if I can help you - ditto.

Allied Families: Denny's, Dees, Tippins, Cirnett's, etc.

Thanks -

Margie K. Ezell

Pascagoula Public Library  
Local History & Genealogy Department  
Fort Family History

PASCAGOULA LIBRARY  
GENEALOGY COLLECTION  
DO NOT CIRCULATE

FORT

Lester Fort, the oldest Fort that I have researched in my Alabama Fort family, is the father of Benjamin Fort; the father of Eliza Helen Fort Gray, the mother of Mary Jermiach Gray Wells, the mother of Loretta Mable Wells Clark, who is my mother.

Lester Fort is listed in the book "Family Called Fort" as having moved to Grand Bay, Alabama in the early 1800's and was married to Betsy Kemp.

His father was William Fort, who was born before 1767 in Edgefield Dist. S.C. and lived there all or most of his life. The following is a tentative list of William's children, taken from "Family Called Fort":

Drewry (or Drury) Fort, born Edgefield Dist. S.C. but lived most of his life in Georgia, possibly in the Milledgeville area. About 1825, he and his brothers William and Lester, migrated to Alabama. Drewry died in Monroe Co. Ala. about 1838-1841. He had a married a widow, "Sintha" Cynthia Sandford, to whose children he conveyed property in 1838. He apparently had no heirs.

William Fort, who was born in Edgefield Dist. S.C. joined his brothers in the move from Georgia to Ala; he settled at Grand Bay in Mobile Co.

Lester married Betsy Kemp. He too, was born in Edgefield Dist. S.C., moved to Georgia for a time, then in 1825 moved to Grand Bay in Mobile Co. Ala. The couple is known to have had these children:

Drewry Alamanza Fort, lived at Grand Bay and married Jaoe Tippin Dees. Their children were: Lee Linson, Dora, Manie Alford, Alfred K.

William Fort married Georgia Martin and lived in the community of Indian Springs, Ala. They are known to have had these children: William Lester, who married Letitia Ross of New Orleans, both buried at Beaumont, TX and had 8 children.

Benjamin Fort lived at Indian Springs and married a Miss Bolton. This information does not concur completely with my research, but will present both versions. The following is, as the above information from "Family Called Fort":

These children are listed: Betsy, Alamanza, William, Holly Middleton, Travis, and Mary. I will present my research at the end of this list of the children of Lester and Betsy.

James Fort, killed in the Civil War.  
Travis Fort  
Elizabeth Fort, who married David Summerlin.  
Mary Fort, who married John Dees of Hattiesburg, MS.  
Betsy Fort  
Holly Middleton Fort, who married Mary Rickard, daughter of Jacob Rickard and Mary Johnson. They later settled in

Pascagoula Public Library  
Local History & Genealogy Department  
Fort Family History

Monroe County, AL. Their children were Mary Jane, James Travis, George Nathan, William Benjamin, and John Dennis.  
(End of "Family Called Fort" records on Lester Fort)

On May 16, "Luster" Fort and Drury Fort (brother) are listed as having purchased land in Monroe Co. Ala. registered in the Cahaba Land Office, 1835-1836, Book 313.

Constructed from census records, the following is a list of Lester and his wife. "Family Called Fort" says that his wife is named Betsy, and the Census of 1850 lists his wife as Mary. Whether this is a second wife, or another part of her name, such as Mary Elizabeth, I have not determined.

Lester Fort	- age 52	farmer, born S.C.
Mary, wife	- age 44	born Georgia
Dick	- age 15	born AL
Holland	- age 11	" "
Alex'r	- age 9	" "
Mary	- age 8	" "
James	- age 4	" "
Nathaniel	- age 2	" "
William	- age 23	farmer, born Georgia

(William probably is a nephew either of Lester or Mary.)

On Oct. 5, 1856, Benjamin married Lucinda Lovejoy (a widow) at the house of Mrs. Elliott, in Mobile County.

By 1860, Lester is found living in the household of his son, Benjamin in Mobile County. I have not found whether his wife Mary died, or if there was a divorce or where the four minor children are at the time of this census.

Benjamin K. Fort	- age 31	Wheelwright, born AL
Lucinda A.	- age 31	"
Mary A. J.	- age 2	"
Eliza H.	- age 1	"
Lester Fort	- age 64	SC

1870 Census - not searched

The 1880 Census of Alabama reveals a move to Pineapple, Wilcox County by Benjamin and his family. Lester is still in the household at the age of 81:

Benjamin Fort	- age 50	Farmer
Lucinda	- age 50	Keeps house
Emma V.	- age 14	
Elliott K.	- age 10	
William (nephew)	age 18	Farm laborer
Lester, Father	age 81	

Lester Fort's age is inconsistent throughout the census.

Pascagoula Public Library  
Local History & Genealogy Department  
Fort Family History

Sometime between 1880 and 1900, Benjamin's family is broken through the death of his wife and father. One instance would indicate the death of his wife about 1887 when he sold a tract of land at Halls Mill Road to Joseph Pollard.

By 1900, Benjamin is found living in the home of his daughter, Emma Bolton in Biloxi, Miss.

1900 Census, Harrison County:

Nathaniel Bolton	- born Oct. 1865, age 34,
Emma	- born Sept. 1866, age 35, 5 children born, 4 living
Mary V.	- born Oct. 1890, age 9
Nathaniel	- born Mar. 1894, age 6
Emma	- born Mar. 1896, age 4
Benjamin	- born Aug. 1898, age 2

Benjamin Fort, father

- born Dec. 1831, age 69, widowed, can read and write.

Benjamin Fort's death record is found at Bradford-O'Keefe Funeral Home in Biloxi and reveals the following information:

-----  
Year - 1909, July 11, 10:30 a.m. White, no age listed, B. K. Fort, widowed. Last place of residence, 1017 W. Railroad St., Biloxi, Ms. Born in Alabama, died of natural causes, attending physician, W.J. Greaves, MD.

Services at residence, 1017 W. Railroad St., 8 a.m. July 12, 1909, officiating clergyman, J. J. Smlylie.

Description of coffin, silver bar, silver plate engraved "At Rest".

Remains delivered to L & N. Depot by carriage, shipped on L&N #6 8:57 a.m. July 12th to Venetia, Ala.

Signed, Dr. N. Bolton

-----  
Certificate of death, attached to funeral record:

B.K. Fort died of natural causes at 10:30 a.m. July 11, 1909 in Biloxi. Race - White; Sex - Male; no occupation; place of birth - Alabama; Time in this city, about 16 years; aged 80 years.

Certified by W.J. Greaves, MD.

-----  
Page 148, Bradford - O'Keefe Funeral Home, Biloxi, MS

Pascagoula Public Library  
Local History & Genealogy Department  
Fort Family History

THE MOBILE REGISTER

NECROLOGICAL - JULY 13, 1909

B. F. Fort - Biloxi, Miss.

Mr. B. F. Fort died yesterday at Biloxi, Miss., aged 81 years. The deceased was well known in this city where he was engaged in the blacksmith business from 1881 - 1903 and after that time moved to Biloxi where he has lived since.

He was a native of Monroe Co. Ala. and leaves one son, Mr. E. K. Fort of Mobile, two daughters, Mrs. L. W. Gray of Theodore, Ala. and Mrs. W. M. Bolton of Biloxi, Miss.

The remains arrived here Monday afternoon and was taken in charge by the Crenshaw Undertaking Co. and will be interred in Zion Cemetery today. Services will be from Zion Baptist Church.

Pascagoula Public Library  
Local History & Genealogy Department  
Fort Family History

The Herald - Biloxi  
Page 2, col. 5:

Death of B. R. Fort aged 80 years..... July 13, 1909,  
carried to former home and burying ground at Venetia,  
Ala...lived in Biloxi 16 years, three children survive: Mrs.  
Nat Bolton; Eliza Gray, Kemp Fort.

The Mobile Register  
Necrological - July 13, 1909

B. F. Fort died yesterday at Biloxi, Miss., aged 81  
years. The deceased was well known in this city where he was  
engaged in the blacksmith business from 1881 - 1903 and after  
that time moved to Biloxi where he has lived since.

He was a native of Monroe Co. Alabama and leaves one  
son, Mr. E. K. Fort of Mobile, two daughters, Mrs. L.W. Gray  
of Theodore, Ala. and Mrs. W. M. Bolton of Biloxi, Miss.

The remains arrived here Monday afternoon and was taken  
in charge by the Crenshaw Undertaking Co. and will be  
interred in Zion Cemetery today. Services will be from Zion  
Baptist Church.

# NATIONAL FUNERAL REGISTER

No. for Year 19	89 = 46	Record of the Funeral of <u>B. K. Fort</u>	Total To Date
July - 3	Date of Death	10 <sup>30</sup> AM July 11 <sup>th</sup> 1909	Color White Age
Full Name		<u>B K Fort</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Single <input type="checkbox"/> Married <input type="checkbox"/> Widowed
Last Place of Residence	1017 W.R.R. St	<u>Biloxie</u> Sex Male	MS.
Occupation	Mone	Birthplace	Mississippi
Birthplace, or if Foreign Born		Father's Name	
Mother's Name		Mother's " "	" "
Chief Cause of Death	<u>Natural Causes</u>	Contributing Cause	
Attending Physician	Dr. J. G. Jones M.D.		
" " Residence	<u>Biloxi Miss</u>	Mark position of Grave on Lot in Red thus:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Place of Burial	<u>at Vinitia ala</u>	" " Monument on Lot thus:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cemetery Lot or Grave No.		" " other Graves and points of Compass	<input type="checkbox"/>
" Section No.		on Lot, when necessary, in Black.	
Services at	<u>1017 W.R.R. St</u>		
Time of Services	8 am	July 12/09	
Date of Burial	July 12/09		
Officiating Clergyman	<u>J. F. Service</u>		
Number of Casket or Coffin	30	Size 5'9	Maker <u>Johnstone</u> \$
Lining	<u>Flannel</u>	Pillows	Handles <u>2</u> lbs. 15-0
Plate	<u>Silver</u>	How Engraved at Rest	
Number of Robe	<u>1</u>	Color <u>Black</u>	
Outside Case	<u>Fabric</u>	Plate Engraved <u>25.00</u>	Delivered to <u>Mr. T. L. Wright</u>
Body Preserved with	<u>Tindsight</u> (After Washing)	Dressing and Shaving <u>5.00</u>	
Use	Doz. Chairs	Draperies <u>100</u>	Candelabra <u>4</u>
Removing Remains	<u>Transit</u>	Rope <u>50</u>	Candles <u>4</u>
Cemetery Expenses		Church Expenses	Linen Scarf
Hearse to		Cemetery, City Call or R. R. Depot	
Number Coaches to	<u>1</u>	Carriage " " " "	
Porters	<u>9</u>		
Advertised in	<u>Ships on Lt. Wm #6</u>	857 AM July 12 <sup>th</sup> to	
	<u>Vinitia ala</u>		

Pascagoula Public Library  
Local History & Genealogy Department  
Fort Family History

*Duplicate*

**CERTIFICATE OF DEATH**

Name *BK Font* .....  
Cause of Death *Natural Diseases* .....  
Date of Death *10<sup>30</sup> AM July 1909* ..... Place of Death *Biloxi* .....  
Color or Race *White* ..... Sex *male* .....  
Occupation *None* ..... Place of Birth *Alabama* .....  
Time in this City *about 16 yrs* ..... Aged *80* years, *0* months, *0* days  
Condition: *Single* ..... Married ..... Widow *✓* .....  
Birthplace of Father .....  
Birthplace of Mother .....  
REMARKS .....  
.....

I CERTIFY that I attended the person above named, who died of the disease stated, on the day named.

*W. J. Gravens* M.D.

This Certificate to be recorded at the Board of Health, at City Hall, Biloxi, Miss.

Pascagoula Public Library  
Local History & Genealogy Department  
Fort Family History

"LINDA"

James Fort, his wife, Martha Gibson Fort and his father-in-law Stephen Gibson came from Robeson Co. N.C. about 1800. He and Mr. Gibson invested largely in lands in Brunswick and vicinity, lived there for some years, was appointed Commissioner of Glynn Academy Nov. 21, 1804, resigned in 1805, removed to Wayne Co. "settled on 300 acres of land bought by Stephen Gibson from Lewis Robinson on the N.E. side of the Great Satilla River adjoining lands of West Sheffield."

In 1810 he was appointed Commissioner of Wayne County Academy and Senator from Wayne Co. in 1812. His only child, Mary Eleanor was born in 1807 and married Stephen Clay King in 1823. After building a beautiful brick home for his daughter he bought the West Sheffield Place about a mile south on the Satilla River and lived there the rest of his life. He left the place to his oldest grandson James Fort King who was born in 1824.

In 1850 he married Miss Louisa Clark of St. Mary's, daughter of Major Archibald Clark of that place. Four children were born to them in the old West Sheffield loghouse. In 1857 they built the house now known as the "Satilla River Fishing Club." The Savannah contractor disappointed my mother terribly in the roof, as she had planned a different one! But the old roof has held out wonderfully.

The Stephen Clay Kings were very ----- people (as I gather from all I have heard) but T.B. wrecked their health, taking two lovely daughters and two sons. A third son with T.B. moved to Texas in time to save himself and lived to be 80 years old. His only son, Henry Clay King, Jr. and a daughter, Miss Sophie King live in San Antonio, Texas, the former with a wife and one daughter. King, with the writer, are the last of the Stephen Clay Kings'.

At the beginning of the War Between the States, my father, James Fort King became manager of the estate which consisted of Maryfield, Vernon, the College and Tabor Plantations, with about four hundred Negro slaves to cultivate them. Tabor had just been bought for \$8,000 from the Percival Cohens', and was never cultivated by our family. "The College" was later sold by my uncle, Henty C. King of Texas and now known as Brookhaven.

Maryfield and Vernon rice plantations on the Satilla River in Camden Co., a distance of fifteen miles from Linda, were cultivated by my two brothers James Fort King and William Wadsworth King, managing after my father retired. A good many of the Negroes remained on the plantations and bought land near and had their own homes, but planted rice on the plantations "on shares". A very few are still alive. The College was sold soon after the war, part of Maryfield was sold about 1925, Vernon, a part of Maryfield, and Tabor are still owned by the descendants. On account of malaria

PASCAGOULA LIBRARY  
GENEALOGY COLLECTION  
DO NOT CIRCULATE

Pascagoula Public Library  
Local History & Genealogy Department  
Fort Family History

thereabout on the rice plantations we lived at Linda most of the time, spending a few winter months on the plantation.

The College was sold soon after the war, part of Maryfield was sold about 1925, Vernon, a part of Maryfield and Tabor are still owned by the descendants.

My father died on April 14, 1902 and after that my mother spent most of the time with us at Incacue (By the Sea) but she never removed from her home Linda. My brother James F. King who had his own place a mile south of Linda came to the old home to protect it from intruders after my father's death and spent most of the time there till the place was sold.

He died at his own place in 1926 never having married. My oldest brother Stephen Clay King died at the age of 21 and was never married. I married Dr. Burwell Atkinson, a widower with five children in 1896 and have been a happy blessed woman all my long life, now on my way to 84 years.

Brother William Wadsworth King died of a heart attack in Oglethorpe Hospital Sept. 1922. His wife Martha died in her sleep at Incacue by the Sea on Christmas morning 1931.

Written by my step-mother who was born  
March 26, 1856 - Rosalie King Atkinson  
Mary Atkinson Russell

PASCAGOULA LIBRARY  
GENEALOGY COLLECTION  
DO NOT CIRCULATE

"Linda"

James Fort, his wife Martha Gibson Fort,  
& his father-in-law Stephen Gibson came to  
Robeson Co. N.C. about 1800. He & Mr. Gibs  
involved largely in lands in Brunswick &  
vicinity, lived there for some years, was  
appointed Commissioner of Glynn Academy  
Nov. 21 1804, resigned in 1805, removed to  
To Wayne Co. "settled on 300 acres of land  
bought by Stephen Gibson from Lewis Robins  
on the N.E. side of the Great Satilla River  
adjoining lands of West Sheffield." In 1810 he was appointed Commissioner of  
Wayne Co. Academy, & Senator from Wayne  
Co in 1812. His only child Mary Eleanor  
was born in 1807 & married Stephen Clay King  
in 1823. — After building a beautiful  
brick home for his daughter he bought  
the West Sheffield place about a mile  
south on the Satilla River & lived there  
the rest of his life. He left the place  
his oldest grandson James Fort King  
who was born in 1824. — In 1850 he

married Miss Louisa Clark of St. Marys daughter of Major Archibald Clark of that place. ~~in 1850~~ Four children were born to them in the old West Sheffield log house. In 1857 they built the house now known as the "Gulf River Fishing Club." The Spanish Contractors disappointed my mother terribly in the roof - as she had planned a different one! but the old roof has held out wonderfully.

The Stephen Clay Kings were very costly people (as I gather from all I have heard but "T.B" wicked their henish, taking two <sup>lovely</sup> daughters & two sons. A third son with T.B moved to Texas in time to save him self a life to be 80 years old. His only son Henry Clay King Jr. & a daughter, Miss Sophie King live in San Antonio, Texas, the former with a wife, one daughter. They, with the brother are the last of the Stephen Clay Kings.

At the beginning of the war between the

PASCAGOULA LIBRARY  
GENEALOGY COLLECTION  
DO NOT CIRCULATE

3

States, my father James Fort King became manager of the estate which consisted of Maryfield, Bernon, The College & Taboo plantations, with about four hundred negro slaves to cultivate them. Taboo had just been bought for \$8000<sup>00</sup> from the Peralval Cohens, & was never cultivated by our family. "The College" was later sold by my Uncle Henry King of Texas & now known as Brookman.

Maryfield & Bernon rice plantations on the Patilla River in Camden Co., a distance of fifteen miles from Laredo, were cultivated by my two brothers James Fort King & William H. smooth King managing after my father died - a good many of the negroes remained on the plantations & bought land near & had their own houses, but planted rice on the plantations "on shares" - a very few are still alive. The College was sold soon after the war, part of Maryfield being sold about 1925, Bernon, a part of Maryfield & Taboo are still owned by the descendants. On account of Malaria rampant on the rice plantations we lived

4

at Linda most of the time, spending a few winter months on the plantation. "The College" was sold soon after the war, part of Maryfield was sold about 1925, Vernon, a part of Maryfield & Tabor are still owned by the descendants.

My Father died in April 1902 & after that my Mother spent most of the time with us at Incachee but she never removed from her home Linda. My brother James F. King who had his own place a mile south of Linda came to the old home to protect it from intruders after my Father's death & spent most of the time there till the place was sold. He died at his own place in 1926 never having married. My brother H. H. King married his Cousin Martha Lord Rice in San Antonio Texas. They had no children. My oldest brother Stephen Clay King died at the age of 21 & was never married. Married Dr. Burwell Atkinson a

Pascagoula Public Library  
Local History & Genealogy Department  
Fort Family History

5

widower with five children  
in 1896 - & have been a happy &  
blessed woman all my long life  
now on my way to 84 years.

Brother William Wadsworth King died of a  
heart attack in Ogallorape Hospital Sept 1922.  
His wife Martha died in her sleep at Ducahee  
by the Sea on Christmas morning 1931

written by myself

Mary Atkinson Moller who was  
born March 26<sup>1856</sup>

Residing Atkinson

Mary Atkinson Russell

PASCAGOULA LIBRARY  
GENEALOGY COLLECTION  
DO NOT CIRCULATE

*Fort*

# A Family Called Fort

The Descendants of  
Elias Fort  
of Virginia

Homer T. Fort, Jr.  
and  
Drucilla Stovall Jones

West Texas Printing Company  
Midland, Texas  
1970

PASCAGOULA LIBRARY  
GENEALOGY COLLECTION  
DO NOT CIRCULATE

PASCAGOULA LIBRARY  
GENEALOGY COLLECTION  
DO NOT CIRCULATE

Pascagoula Public Library  
Local History & Genealogy Department  
Fort Family History

The Fort family, or the southern edition of it, has been in America more than 300 years. Insofar as the records show, it began with a fellow named Elias Fort. Time's fog has covered most traces of the man, including the still speculative question of whether he or his unknown parents were actually the first in this country.

Pitifully few records of Elias survive. The first is dated October 9, 1667 when he scrawled his mark on the findings of a coroner's jury investigating the death of William Persons in Isle of Wight County. We have another record of jury service later that year when he and other men looked into the death of Edward Burgess.

In the years 1669, 1670, 1675 and 1677, respectively, he was called on to administer the estates of Joseph Poole, Thomas Dixon, Robert Roe, and William Groves.

A court record in Isle of Wight for September 7, 1675 shows him in debt and overdue in his payments to Tom Denson.

Elias died in late 1677 or early 1678, probably the latter, leaving his widow and "orphans". No one knows where his bones rest in old Isle of Wight.

Not much more is available from the scanty records dealing with the man. But we can surmise a good deal by looking behind the records and knowing something of colonial Virginia.

There is fairly good evidence that Elias was born before 1646 and probably after 1630. His service on juries required him to be at least 21 years old. While the estate administration papers filed after his death tell us little about his family, they describe his children as being "orphans" and hence under legal age. Elias and John Fort show up on the "titheable" list for Surry County June 10, 1694; George appears in listings for Surry—in Southwark and Lawnes Creek parishes—in 1698. These lists of titheables cover white males 16 years and older with independent livings.

We can guess, then, that Elias left comparatively young children. All the indications are that he died in his vigorous years, perhaps in his 40's.

The administration papers on Elias' estate show his wife's first name was Phillis; the will of Joseph Poole, made January 8, 1668 in Isle of Wight County, indicates rather strongly that she was Phillis Champion, and that her widowed mother had married Joseph Poole after bearing a son Edward Champion. Phillis also had sisters: Elizabeth, Sarah, and Priscilla Champion. Elizabeth married Samuel Eldridge, then Thomas Moore. Moore appraised Elias' estate. Sarah married Hugh Bressie. Priscilla was unmarried in 1694.

Much later Phillis the widow marked a document with the initials "PC" adding further substance to the Champion identification.

Elias shows up on no surviving land records in Virginia. Granted that he was comparatively poor—as evidenced by his debt and illiteracy—it appears somewhat unlikely that a man who administered four estates and who owned 18 pigs and 10 horses at the time of his death had no land of his own. Unfortunately the records of Jamestown were three times destroyed by fire, and in all likelihood the papers on his land holdings as well as harder evidence of his origins disappeared with them.

Speculation has it that Elias might have been an indentured servant earlier

for someone else on arrival in the New World and so pay off the cost of their passage in preference to saving money in England. But Elias' service as an executor of estates argues against his having that status in the later years of his life.

The world Elias Fort knew started at the water's edge and ended about a hundred miles to the west, where the head of navigation blocked water-borne traffic. Beyond this frontier lay the enormous American forest, wholly unseen by white men, spreading in a largely unbroken sweep all the way to the Mississippi River. The Indians, friendly at first, had been swept back after vicious raids on isolated settlements. In the 1660's there were perhaps 30,000 colonists in Virginia, all in the narrow coastal region. Their farms ribboned along the James and other rivers. The southern shore of the James had taken less of the growing population than the northern bank; it was natural for Elias to look at the slightly rolling country of Isle of Wight with its dark-watered creeks and swamps as a good place to make his home. He probably ferried the James occasionally to get supplies at Jamestown and learn what the latest arrivals had to say about the broiling religious and political controversies in Stuart England.

The small appointments of colonial living are shown in Elias' inventory, filed by his widow. They included a dozen "spoones", a long table, "three old pots", two flock beds and one featherbed, and furniture "very old". Perhaps the last items were relics of long-ago days in England and brought to the wilderness by Elias or his parents.

Elias apparently was English even though "Fort" is obviously derived from the French "forte", meaning strong, and even though there is a tradition that the family was originally Huguenot. The names of his children—Elias, John and that most English of names, George—as well as those of his grandchildren suggest no French background. Further, his service on juries and as an estate executor suggests a general familiarity with English legal procedures.

A counter-argument involves the fact that one segment of the family in the 18th century frequently carries the spelling "Foort" which might be a derivative of "Voort" or "Feurt". But "Ffort" was more common. Insofar as is known all of the early members of the family were illiterate; those who wrote on their behalf had to translate the pronunciation into the written language—and the scribes themselves were frequently unsure spellers.

Huguenot or no, it seems reasonably certain that Elias was a Protestant. In all likelihood he was a member of the Church of England which, as the state church, dominated the Virginians' religious habits until the mid-1700's. One of Elias' sons—Elias (II)—was summoned to court in 1694 for non-attendance at church, which might indicate a dissenter. But this one-time charge more likely indicates he was a church member with a light conscience or a dislike for the pastor. The first Elias almost certainly was no Quaker since his name does not appear on the still surviving early Quaker records.

Various records in both Virginia and North Carolina indicate that Elias' grandchildren were Anglicans though in the following generation numbers

Pascagoula Public Library  
Local History & Genealogy Department  
Fort Family History

was strong.

There is no inkling of what took the life of the first known Fort. He lived in a world of axed clearings, heat, labor, and medical superstitions. A sudden sweep of contagion may have brushed him, or a scratch may have carried an infection into his blood.

This is all that is known or can reasonably be inferred from the documents. Yet both family traditions and scraps of fact hint at more. In examining them we are entering an unsure and uncertain area where guesses rather than probabilities surround us.

Kate Haynes Fort's "Memoirs of the Fort-Fannin Family"—one of the few published works on the family—recounts a tradition that three brothers named Moses, Arthur and Elias Fort came to America with a British expedition sent to quell the Bacon Rebellion in Virginia. One was a wagonmaster. An elaboration of this tradition says they arrived under the command of a Colonel Morrison and a Colonel Hubert Jeffries; the three brothers decided to stay after Nathaniel Bacon's uprising aborted.

This is the tradition. Kate Fort's story came from her mother who was trying to recall something Kate's grandfather had said years earlier. There is obviously room for a poor memory here, but there is better evidence in the fact that the Bacon Rebellion did not take place until 1676, nine years after Elias first appears on the Virginia jury list. Further, the brothers Moses and Arthur, along with a brother named Drury Fort, do appear together in a migration to South Carolina—though some 75 years after the first Elias died—and these same men were in the line from which Kate Fort and her immediate ancestors came.

But tradition can sometimes hide kernels of truth.

There is another story, independent of this one and picked up from two separate sources, which says two brothers did come to America together, that they landed in the north somewhere, and that one of the brothers came south to Virginia, perhaps by land or perhaps in a coastal voyage.

Interestingly, there is a lone record in Boston of an Abraham Fort marrying a Hannah Hutchinson on November 18, 1650. Nothing further is known of Abraham nor is there a single document linking him with Elias of Virginia.

Was there some sort of tie with Bacon's Rebellion?

John Forth, boyishly young at 16, sailed to Virginia from England in 1622 on the "Bona Nova", showing up two years later in a colony census made to determine how many had survived a terrible Indian massacre. He was living on the south bank of the James at "Bass's Choice".

Many years later, at the time Bacon inflamed the south side of the James River in rebellion against Governor Berkeley, a John Forth supposedly fled when the uprising collapsed. He disappeared into the surrounding forest. It seems unlikely that the two John Forts could be the same man, but perhaps the latter was a son—and also a brother to Elias.

A "Jennett Forth" arrived in James City County, Virginia in 1651 and was indentured to Edward Greenwood; Surry County was originally part of James City.

Another quirk in the "Forth" speculation lies with George Forth, who in 1635 announced his intention of going to Virginia on the ship "Globe". He duly showed up at Gravesend, joining other emigrants who were "examined by the Minister of Gravesend for their Conformatie . . . have taken oaths of Alleg. and Supremecie . . ." He was then 27.

Considering the fragmentary early records, George Forth should disappear at that point. But rather, a "George Fort"—definitely minus the "n"—shows up in, of all places, Accomack County, Virginia, in 1636. He is a gunsmith, and he has done some repair work for "Lady Dales" who died leaving an unpaid bill, and George seeks his money from the executor. Nothing more of the gunsmith.

So a John Forth and a George Forth—and an Elias Fort naming his sons Elias, John and George. But still highly speculative.

Mentioned earlier was the fact that some of Elias' descendants evidently pronounced and even wrote the name as "Foort" until about the end of the 18th century. Now we hark back to English passenger lists showing a "Robert Foorte" coming to Virginia sometime between 1663 and 1667. What happened to him or his link, if any, with Elias isn't known.

Another tradition: Elias Fort and his wife Phillis came to Virginia on the ship "George" in 1630. English records show that the ship "George" did indeed make voyages to Virginia in 1617, 1621, 1635 and perhaps in other years. But all these dates seem early for Elias.

There is a frustrating record in the Washington D.C. chapter of the Huguenot Society of America. A membership application states that Elias Fort was born about 1631 and that he married Phillis in England in 1660. These statements, which tell more about Elias than any other known source, were based on a "letter from Mrs. Mattie Higgs 417 North Blount Street, Raleigh, N. C." The letter could not be located, and Mrs. Higgs was found to have died. What her sources were could not be determined.

It would be nice, of course, to know if Elias were indeed the emigrant from England since this would provide at least one hard fact in terms of locating his origin there. And while a good many searchers have tried to determine this already, it might be well to look at the possibilities.

In terms of the American records, chances seem remote though not completely impossible. The Accomack records and those of surrounding counties should be looked at. A stronger attempt should be made to find out more about Abraham Fort of Massachusetts, perhaps through a check of Hutchinson records.

Virginia records should be re-scrutinized on the possibility that leads will show up under variant spellings such as Ford, Foort, or even more-distant spellings. The Champion and Poole records should be examined for clues.

Considering how much delving has already taken place among the early American records, though, the odds for success are not good. Of course, someone may turn up in an attic a piece of yellowing paper written by a grandson of Elias, or a scrawled and ancient Bible telling everything about him. The genealogical jackpot will have been hit.

Certain Forts who inhabited Barbados don't appear to be promising

Pascagoula Public Library  
Local History & Genealogy Department  
Fort Family History

sources for Elias records, but this island did form a way-station for English migrants and the possibility exists.

A better and as yet largely untapped source of information is in the English records. Locations where Forts were known to have been living in the early part of the 17th century would have to be found. Parish records in those places might show a christening or marriage for Elias. Wills might show a father or grandfather in England remembering Elias with a bequest. Contact would need to be made with those who have delved into British records of the family. Even with all this, though, we may have to content ourselves with the notion that the first known Fort was Elias and let it go at that.

Moving to Elias' widow and children, our way is clearer.

Colonial living was such that the widow and widower were impelled to find new marriage partners. Virtually all income came from the land, and planting is not the best of occupations for a single person. The widow needed a worker and manager for her inherited property so she could care for her children. The widower, perhaps left with children, needed both the affection and manual labor of a wife. Three marriages in one person's lifetime were not unusual, and the string occasionally ran to four or even five.

The pressure to marry and re-marry, thrown against the constant shortage of marriageable people in any given vicinity, produced customs aimed at ordering the pairing-off process. For one, Virginia custom took a dim view of a widow past the age of 27 marrying anyone who wasn't himself a widower. For another, marriages to first cousins caused no eyebrow-lifting at all. It's doubtful that the colonials understood the rather small biological hazards in such matings, but if they did the exigencies of existing made them ignore the possibilities.

Phillis Champion Fort therefore looked around for a man after her husband's death and found one—not a cousin, as far as we know—in John Ducie of neighboring Surry County. (While the records seem to give the name as Ducie or Duce, the name more likely was "Dew", a fairly numerous Surry County family.) The marriage took place by 1686. Phillis moved her sons—Elias, John and George—to Surry with her. Whether she had any other children isn't known.

Attempting to fix the birthdates of the three sons must be done by inference rather than fact. Elias was certainly born prior to January 8, 1668, when Joseph Poole left this step-grandson a calf in his will. The boy shows up on Surry's titheables list in 1686 though this tells us only that he was 16 years old or older.

He was certainly 21 or older in March, 1686, when he bought and leased land on Cypress Swamp in Isle of Wight from William Baldwin, partner of his step-father. John Ducie himself made a gift of 100 acres at the same time.

On these facts and the perhaps arguable premise that Joseph would not have left a calf to an infant we might guess Elias' birth to have been 1663-65.

John Fort, another son, appears on the titheable list in Surry in 1694. Had he been the oldest son it seems reasonable to assume that Joseph Poole would have named him rather than Elias; the Virginians held strongly to the rules of English primogeniture until about the beginning of the 19th century.

George Fort, the other son, joined the Surry titheables list much later, in 1698. A court record shows he had married by March 3, 1695, and we know that teen-age marriages were quite rare in colonial times.

Admitting chances for error, we can be fairly sure that Elias was the oldest, John the middle son, and George the youngest. With less certainty we can fix John's birth at about 1665 and George's between 1668 and 1675.

These approximate times square well with the information given in the three sons' respective wills. Elias left at least one grown grandson in 1739. John named no grandsons in 1725, but assuredly most of his children were of age and probably married. George left grown children in 1719 of which at least one was married.

So it was with a family of youthful sons that Phillis moved into John Ducie's home in Surry. But not for long. John made her a widow a second time, dying in Surry in 1691, and Phillis again was made executor of a husband's estate.

Phillis evidently came into property as a result of her second husband's death, for on April 28, 1694 she sold 200 acres of land in Surry to Lawrence Fleming. In return Fleming agreed "to maintain Phillis Ducie with meat, drink, wearing apparel . . . during her natural life, she to do such woman's work as reasonable and that she is able to perform." It is barely possible that Fleming was a brother-in-law or son-in-law of Phillis since the agreement has an undertone of charitable affection in it, a suggestion reinforced by Fleming's 1710 will in which he left a riding horse named "Sparkey" to either Phillis herself or, more likely, to her granddaughter Phillis. Whether Phillis married again after Ducie's death, and where and when she died are unanswered questions.

Elias, the oldest boy, acquired land along Cypress Swamp in Surry County, a creek still in existence and probably not far from Ducie's lands in Surry. Later he apparently picked up larger holdings in the Three Creeks area of Surry, a section that now lies in the northern portion of Southampton County, Virginia, and spreads over into Sussex County. Some of his descendants held these family lands well into the 1800's, while getting other acreages in what is now Brunswick County. Elias appears to have held land in Isle of Wight County, also.

Later generations in this branch moved into North Carolina, Georgia, Kentucky, and Illinois, to name only those states most closely associated with the group.

As was probably the case with his brothers, Elias was a planter. He presumably raised tobacco and carried on farming operations of other kinds while growing foodstuffs for his family. Neither he nor his kin ever acquired the huge plantations which on proprietary or royal grant were given to a handful of patrician families such as the Fairfaxes. But he moved up several notches in the prosperity scale.

Judging from the ages of his family as inferred from his will and other documents, Elias married about 1685-90. The girl's name was Sarah. We do not know her maiden name.

Because Elias named a son Holliday, and because the Holliday family was

Pascagoula Public Library  
Local History & Genealogy Department  
Fort Family History

prominent in Isle of Wight, some researchers have speculated that Sarah came from this family. Zella Armstrong's book "Notable Southern Families", Vol. 2, has a chapter on the Holliday family; she notes that Anthony Holliday, son of Thomas Holliday, had a daughter Sarah; her age might be right for a marriage to Elias. However, Isle of Wight records show that Sarah, daughter of Anthony, married William Murphrey in 1718, which apparently makes that idea untenable.

Another speculation has it that Elias married a Sarah Battle, of a family closely associated with the Forts in later times. The two families seem to have lived close together in Surry. But no proof exists.

Whatever her name she bore Elias a large family of children and managed to survive him when he died, after making his will in Surry in early 1739.

Howard Askew, a family searcher, took delight in noting that Elias was not the most generous of men when it came to remembering his wife in his will. The will reads in part:

"I give unto my wife Sarah ffot all the goods and chattles she was possessed of before I marreyed Except the best bed that was hers. It is my meaning that she shall have all the goods she was possessed of before her Marriage all I say that are now in being except the abovesaid bed." The bed was given to a son.

Askew pointed out that the old fellow, having had Sarah as his wife for 40 years or so, left her only the things she had brought with her on marriage and even excluded the best bed!

There is a slight possibility that Sarah married again, for on April 29, 1739, Thomas Johnson "and Sarah his wife of Isle of Wight" conveyed to Holliday Fort, a son of Elias, "all that plantation whereon said Holliday Fort now lives . . . on the north side of Hornet Swamp." No will for Sarah Fort has been found.

John Fort, the second of the brothers, married Elizabeth Jordan, daughter of Richard Jordan of Surry County, about 1685-90. She was named in Richard's will dated September 24, 1695, receiving "one breeding sow."

John acquired land along Johnchecohunk Swamp and along Wildcat Branch, streams in what was then Surry County. He may also have held lands elsewhere.

John made his will in Surry County on October 21, 1724 and died sometime in late 1724 or early 1725, probably the latter. He left a number of mature children but also had two sons who were under-age at the time he made his will. Elizabeth died about 1743.

All or virtually all of John's children migrated to North Carolina, settling in what is now the Johnston-Wilson-Lenoir counties and in the nearer Halifax County. Their descendants in turn moved into South Carolina, Georgia, Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi, Missouri, Arkansas and Texas, to name the states receiving the bulk of them.

George Fort, the youngest son, was hauled before a court in Surry in 1694 on a charge of "killing a wild hogg contrary to law". A disproportionate number of the early records seem to connect our ancestors with pigs! At this distance in time it's hard to understand how a fine could result from killing

a wild hog; we might guess that it was not so much the slaying as doing the killing on a Sabbath.

Only a year later, in 1695, George was back in court again. This time the action involved his wife, whose name we get from the decision in the case. The final order of the court reads:

"George Fort as marrying Eliza Accabe Duckwood having caused William Foreman to be arrested to this Court sett forth yt she as aforesaid did agree to dwell with the sd Foreman from ye first of March to ye last of obr (October) last year for four hundred pounds of tobō for which he prayed judgment with costs, to which the Defendt pleaded there was no agreement made, a Jury was therefore sworn to try the same Vitzt Ellis John Procter, Wm Killingsworth, Philip Burrough Jno ffrenly Edwd Cooksy Austin Hunnicut Roger Nichols James Jordan Jno Greene Thos Baggs & William Alsoe returned for vrđt we find for the plaintiff four hundred pounds of tobō upon plaintiffs motion the Jurys vrđt is confirmed and ye said Foreman ordered to pay the said four hundred pounds of tobō . . ."

Now on modern reading it would appear that Elizabeth—Eliza was a short form—agreed to take up illicit housekeeping with William Foreman in return for 400 pounds of tobacco. But we can be sure no jury in those church-bound days would have found for her had that been the case. More likely they would have branded her and driven her out of town.

Rather, Elizabeth seems to have signed on to do housekeeping for Foreman but found Foreman welching on payment. George Fort apparently married her during or after this period—placing the marriage at about 1694—and brought suit on her behalf.

George acquired land in present-day Southampton County (then Surry) in an area bounded by Round Hill Swamp and Blackwater Swamp. But in 1715 or 1716 he put his Round Hill property in the care of his son Elias (and possibly his son George) and moved to Albemarle Parish of North Carolina in what was then called "Chowan Precinct", apparently taking the rest of his family with him. The move covered not more than 50 miles, its end point being probably in what is now Gates, Hertford or Northampton counties. He seems to have settled along the north bank of the Meherrin River, but also to have made a land entry on Great Creek, a waterway later called "Deep Creek" that flows into the Roanoke River from the northern part of present-day Halifax County.

George made his will in Chowan Precinct, Albemarle Parish, on May 15, 1719 and died not much later in that same year. His wife and a number of grown children, including a married daughter, survived him. When and where Elizabeth, his widow, died is not known.

George's will is the earliest surviving testament by a member of the family. Its quaint opening, while not uncommon in its form, tells us something of the man and his times:

"I George ffot of the County of Albemarl in north Carolinah although sick and weak in body yett in perfect mind and memory thanks be given to Almighty God but knowing the certainty of death and uncertainty of time I make and ordain this last will and testament . . . I committ mv Soul into

Pascagoula Public Library  
Local History & Genealogy Department  
Fort Family History

the hands of Almighty God my maker trusting through the merits of Christ my savior to be made partaker of Everlasting Life and my body to the Earth to be buried . . ."

George Fort's children—those who are identified—lived chiefly in Edgecombe County, North Carolina; their descendants spread into Wayne and Robeson counties in North Carolina, also into Georgia, Tennessee and Arkansas among other states.

Elias the father, Phillis the mother, and the sons Elias, John and George started this American family. They were poor at first, but the sons began to acquire land. They grew tobacco and cattle, fed pigs. They were illiterate. They needed and wanted strong sons and they got them yet their wills and deeds use the phrase "my loving son" or "my beloved son". They were obscure people among obscure people. Yet, in ways they may have dreamed of but did not hand down in written form, they helped make the young America.

#### Authors' Notes

*Elias Fort References.* The first record, dealing with his jury service, is in Isle of Wight County, Book 1, Page 548, dated October 1667. Joseph Poole's will, which throws light on the Champion connection, is in the same county, Book 2, Page 65, dated January 8, 1668; it mentions Elias Fort (II). The mention of Elias' "orphans" is in Isle of Wight, Book 2, Page 46.

*Elizabeth Jordan Fort.* See the will of Richard Jordan, dated September 24, 1695, recorded November, 1699 in Surry County Will Book 5, Page 183.

*Lands of George Fort.* Because of difficulties in correctly identifying George Fort's children strong attempts were made to locate the plantation he willed to his son Benjamin; this plantation was the one whereon George himself was living in 1719 when he made his will. Bertie County, North Carolina deeds in 1721 show Benjamin buying land on the Meherrin River; these may have been adjacent to his inherited property or perhaps across from it. The best guess is that the land was in the vicinity of what is now Severn, North Carolina. Checks of many counties turned up no records on Benjamin after 1721. The only county in the Meherrin area whose records have been destroyed is Hertford, and this fact may explain the absence of further Benjamin Fort references.

*Elizabeth Accabe Duckwood.* Some have speculated that the girl was an Indian, presumably because of the middle name. But spelling was much too loose for such an assumption. A better guess is that her maiden name was "Ackaby" or some such and that she had an earlier marriage to a man named Duckwood. The mention of her name and the suit is in Surry County Court Orders, 1691-1713, Page 152.

*Immigration Traditions.* The Elias-Arthur-Moses story is in Kate Haynes Fort's "Memoirs of the Fort-Fannin Family", published in Chattanooga about 1890. It is comparatively rare but can be found in some of the better genealogical collections, including the New York Public Library's. The book mentions the connection between the Forts and the Fannin family which produced General James Fannin of Texas Revolution fame. The story of the

arrival on the "George" is from John Boddie's "Southside Virginia Families", Volume 1, now available from the Genealogical Publishing Company of Baltimore in reprint form. Boddie's chapter on the early Forts came largely from Lewis Fort of Whitehaven, Tennessee, a portion of whose papers was made available to the authors of this book. Voyages of the "George" are listed in Boddie's "Seventeenth Century Isle of Wight County". Robert Foote's migration is in "Bristol and America", which lists emigrants leaving from that English port.

*Early Tax Information.* Taken from Virginia Historical Magazine, Volume 29, Page 18.

*John Fort's Will.* Located in Surry County, Will Book 7, Page 632.

*George Fort's Will.* Copies can be obtained from the North Carolina Department of Archives and History, Raleigh, Volume 10 of North Carolina Wills.

*Elias Fort's Will.* The will of the younger Elias was made September 20, 1732 in Surry County. His executor paid burial expenses for his widow in 1743 (Will Book 3, Page 469).

Pascagoula Public Library  
Local History & Genealogy Department  
Fort Family History

Chart 1-1

Elias Fort (II) and Sarah

ELIAS FORT (II), son of Elias and Phillis Fort, lived in Surry County, Va., where he married a woman named Sarah. The couple had these children:

- 1) ELIAS FORT (III) married Elizabeth Sugars, daughter of John Sugars of Surry. Elias died intestate in 1724, probably in young manhood, leaving his wife and one known child: a son named John. His widow, named as administrator of his estate, married a Mr. Bynum by July 21, 1725, when she rendered an accounting. Elizabeth died in Southampton County, Va., in 1773, after the death of her son John. Her will shows five children by her second husband: William, Benjamin, and Michael Bynum, and Abigail Williamson and Colia (Celia?) Bryant. Elizabeth also had another daughter, dead by 1771, by either her first or second husband. This daughter married a Mr. Whitehead and had Colin, Temperance, and Priscilla Whitehead. Abigail had a son: Robert Mickelberry Williamson, born by 1778. Elizabeth's will also shows these other grandchildren: Cardall Norfleet Bynum, Ben Bynum, Milley Bynum. (See Chart 1-2)
- 2) JOHN FORT was born in Surry County sometime before 1706 and married Rebecca (Page?). A planter of substance, he lived in the Three Creeks-Hornet Swamp area of present-day Southampton County (then Isle of Wight). He also acquired lands from the Nottaway Indians on Buckhorn Swamp in the southern part of Southampton. John died testate in this same county January-March 1753. His wife Rebecca died testate in Southampton County in 1767. (See Chart 1-3)  
*see Wills*
- 3) HOLLIDAY FORT was born in Surry County 1708 or earlier. His first marriage was to Mary Ann Flake about 1737-39. After her death he married Lucretia Mason; this was about 1761. Holliday lived most of his life in a part of Surry County which was cut off to form Sussex County, Va., and died in Sussex in 1773. He had six children by his first wife and nine by his second. After Holliday's death Lucretia married George Marsh; she died sometime prior to December 7, 1774. (See Chart 1-4)
- 4) PHILLIS FORT, who was born no later than 1712 in Surry County, married John Pennington in 1730 or earlier. John Pennington is thought to have been the son of Thomas Pennington who died in Surry in 1727. John himself died May-June, 1766 in Sussex County with Phillis surviving him. (See Chart 1-5)
- 5) FAITH FORT was born no later than 1712 in Surry County and married John King. The latter died in Surry in 1737, leaving his wife and three orphans whose names are not known. One of the latter may have been Andrew King who died in 1766 in Surry; he and his wife—also named Faith—are known to have had twin sons named James

1712 - 1759

Foster, a son of Christopher Foster and Elizabeth Barker. John died 1736 in Isle of Wight County. The children of John and Mary Foster, as given in his will, were: Christopher, John, Arthur, Elizabeth, Faith, Mary, Lucy, and Sarah Foster. By December, 1760 Mary married a second time, to a Mr. Pennington.

- 7) ALICE FORT, born no later than 1712 in Surry, married Christopher Foster, another son of Christopher Foster and Elizabeth Barker. Christopher (II) was born about 1705 in Surry, but in 1749 acquired substantial lands in Isle of Wight. He married Alice sometime before 1728. Christopher died testate in Southampton County prior to March 12, 1767. His widow died in the same county 1772-73. They had these children:
  - a) JOHN FOSTER.
  - b) ELIAS FOSTER, who died sometime before Feb. 12, 1761 leaving a son named Richard who was still under-age in 1766.
  - c) MOSES FOSTER, born no later than 1745.
  - d) NEWIT FOSTER, a son, born no later than 1745, who died in 1767. He married and left one daughter: Dolly Foster.
  - e) AMY FOSTER.
  - f) A daughter (name unknown) who married John Westbrook, son of John Westbrook (probably of Henrico County, Va.) The marriage took place by 1747, probably in Isle of Wight County. To this marriage were born William Westbrook, about 1748; John Westbrook, about 1750; Moses Westbrook, about 1752; James Westbrook, about 1754; and Elias Westbrook, about 1756. After John's first wife died about 1756, he married Honour Gray and had Gray Westbrook, born about 1758, and Burwell Westbrook, born about 1760. Descendants of the Westbrook-Fort marriage went to Sampson and Warren counties, N.C., and later into Alabama, Georgia, and other states.

About The Family

The various sons of Elias Fort (II), having shared in their father's fairly substantial holdings, moved quite aggressively to acquire additional properties. They held lands not only in Surry but also in Isle of Wight, Southampton, and Sussex — and, in the case of John Fort — acquired a tract across the North Carolina border in Edgecombe County.

Judging from deed records, John was especially enterprising in building his land possessions. He acquired at different times a total of 450 acres in the Three Creeks area of Southampton. And in 1745 he picked up 445 acres "at the edge of the Low Grounds of the West Prong of Buckhorn Swamp". This land was physically separated from his other property by a number of miles, but it was not uncommon for planters to make the circuit of separated properties on horseback, checking on the efficiency of overseers who carried on operations at each place.

Pascagoula Public Library  
Local History & Genealogy Department  
Fort Family History

Chart 2-1

John Fort and Elizabeth Jordan

JOHN FORT, son of Elias Fort and Phillis Champion, married Elizabeth Jordan, daughter of Richard Jordan of Surry County, Va. He was born about 1665 in Isle of Wight County, Va., and married Elizabeth about 1685. At various times he held lands on Johnchecohunk Swamp in Surry (given in various deeds as Johnshehawkin and Jonchwocon), and on Blackwater and Seacock Swamps, waterways still identifiable in Surry. His wife Elizabeth was evidently dead by the time he made his will on Oct. 21, 1724; he presumably died in early 1725 since his will was recorded on March 10, 1725. He and Elizabeth had these children:

- 1) WILLIAM FORT, probably the oldest son, born (roughly) 1685-1690 and definitely of age by 1721. William migrated to North Carolina shortly after his father died. He was in Bertie Precinct of Albemarle County (present-day Northampton and Hertford counties) by 1730 and was probably living somewhere in the Occonechee Neck area of present-day Northampton in that year. In 1737 he acquired 640 acres of land on Keehukee Swamp in Edgecombe County (present-day Halifax County) and seems to have lived there until his death. He is thought to have been a member of the Church of England. William Fort is believed to have married Alice Foreman (who, after William's death, married Thomas Pope). She is thought to have been the daughter of Benjamin Foreman, Sr. William died intestate in early 1746 in Edgecombe County. He and Alice had at least five children:
  - a) JACOB FORT, who died while still a minor sometime prior to 1761.
  - b) WILLIAM FORT, who also died under-age prior to 1761.
  - c) WINEFRED FORT, a daughter who died under-age before 1761.
  - d) A daughter (name unknown) who married Major Walker before 1761. ("Major" was the man's name, not a military title.)
  - e) SARAH FORT, who married Robert Pope sometime prior to 1761. Their descent is not known.
- 2) JOHN FORT, born sometime prior to 1702 in Surry County, Va., migrated to North Carolina prior to his father's death; he was in Bertie Precinct by November, 1723. He married a girl named Mary prior to 1719. In the years 1723-1730 he seems to have lived on "Looking Glass Swamp" on the south side of what is now called the Roanoke River. This was in present-day Halifax County. He sold this land in 1730 and moved to Tyrell County where he was living in 1740 (probably in an area now a part of Martin County). In 1741 he was granted land in Craven County but evidently continued his residence in Tyrell until 1744. In 1744 he moved to Craven County where his brothers Thomas and Richard (and probably Elias) were in residence. He died testate in Craven, making his will Aug. 6, 1745; his death occurred not long before his will was probated in the March court, 1746. His wife Mary survived him. He left four children:

probated in the March court, 1746. His wife Mary survived him. He left four children:

- a) ARTHUR FORT, born 1719 or earlier, probably in Surry County, Va. He married Winefred Pace, member of a prominent family in Northampton and other northeastern Carolina counties. He lived along the Neuse River in present-day Lenoir County in the general area bounded to the north by Falling Creek, remaining in this area until about 1755 when he and two of his brothers migrated to South Carolina. According to a tradition, they settled along the PeeDee River in northeastern South Carolina. However, by 1772 Arthur and his brother Drury were living in the vicinity of Mine Creek, between the Saluda and Savannah rivers in what was then called Edgefield District, S.C. Arthur made his will March 21, 1773 in Colleton County; he died between that date and May 28, 1773 when the will was probated. (See Chart 2-2)
- b) DRURY FORT was born 1725 or earlier in what was then Bertie Precinct, N.C. He was definitely of age in 1748 and was married by 1754, while living then in Johnston County, N.C. About 1755 he moved to South Carolina with his brothers, possibly settling first along the PeeDee River. By 1765 he was granted land along Mine Creek in Berkeley County (later Edgefield District) and received other grants in 1769 and 1774. Drury may have married twice, but no known record shows conclusively the names of his wives. He died intestate in Edgefield District, probably in 1788. (See Chart 2-3)
- c) MOSES FORT, born 1725 or earlier in what was then Bertie Precinct, N.C., migrated to South Carolina with his brothers Arthur and Drury. He seems to have died in the Darlington area — not long after he and his brothers arrived — in the first half of 1756; his will does not locate his place of residence. The will names only his wife Priscilla, who was pregnant at the time the will was made on June 3, 1755; William Killingsworth, a Darlington resident, witnessed the will. After Moses' death his widow Priscilla married Major Robert Lide on June 24, 1756. Priscilla is believed to have died only three days after the marriage. Her posthumous son by Moses Fort was also named Moses. Moses (Jr.), born Sept. 12, 1755, married Betsy \_\_\_\_\_ March 7, 1776. By her he had Mary Fort, born July 7, 1778, and Sarah Fort, who died in infancy. Major Lide in his 1802 will named a Richard Fort as an heir — this may also have been a child of Moses (Jr.). Nothing further is known of this Richard.
- d) JERUSHAH FORT, a daughter, was named in her father's will and was not married in 1745.
- 3) ELIAS FORT, born about 1700 in Surry County, Va., was living in Bertie Precinct, N.C. in 1728; his land was along "Looking Glass Swamp" with his brother John. A royal grant from King George II

Pascagoula Public Library  
Local History & Genealogy Department  
Fort Family History

Zachariah Fort serving as Inspector and Judge in Leon County (Tallahassee), no date given; 4) Henry Fort of Hazard, St. John River, 1841, elected Collector of Customs. The authors thought it unlikely that Zachariah, the son of Arthur (II) lived in Florida since a Zachariah Cox Fort, a son or grandson, was living in Clayton County, Georgia in 1889, but it is possible. The other Florida men remain unidentified as well.

*The Charleston Death.* There is a strong family tradition that one of Arthur's sons died in Charleston during the Revolution. It is known that Moses Fort was at the Siege of Charleston; he might have died there. But the young Jesse Fort, who was put in the keeping of his brother Owen by his father's will, seems a better candidate.

*The Morning-Norma Question.* The Joseph Habersham Collection, DAR, in Atlanta, shows Arthur (I) as having a daughter Norma who married a Mr. Spurlock. Miss Alvahn Holmes of Baltimore, Maryland, a descendant of Owen Fort Spurlock, provided the authors with other facts on the Spurlocks, including the marriage reference on Winefred (from Mary Warren's *Marriages and Deaths, 1763-1820—Georgia newspaper accounts*). She also mentioned that the family records of Judge James Spurlock of Rome show Norma "was the daughter of Arthur Fort who married a Miss Owen and that another Arthur Fort married Sallie Pace." Miss Holmes called attention to the sudden appearance of the Owen name in the family of Arthur (I). In considering this comment, the authors took account of a 96 District, South Carolina deed (supplied by Sara C. Fort) in Book 1, Page 235. It shows Owen Fort selling land to William Humphries which Owen had inherited from his father Arthur (no date given). James Spurlock appears among the witnesses. All in all, the authors felt the weight of evidence was toward identifying Norma with either the Sarah or Morning Fort who were daughters of Arthur. Simply because the names sound somewhat alike — admittedly not a very good reason — they adopted the idea that it was Morning, who abruptly disappears after her father's will was written.

*The Atlanta Pace Manuscript.* The authors found in the Atlanta Public Library a long typescript copy of a letter written by a Barnabas Pace, son of a Drury Pace. It is not dated but apparently was written around 1820-30 to his son Columbus. References in the letter show he was recalling events that had happened as far back as 1794. Much of it deals with family links in the Pace family. It does not clarify the confusion between the tradition of "Sallie Pace" and the Winefred given as Arthur's wife in his will. However, it contains a somewhat bewildering reference to the southeastern Forts. In describing another Barnabas Pace (seemingly his uncle), he mentions that his uncle had four daughters. One married a Mr. Cox. Another married a Mr. O'Daniel. Another married a Mr. Noel Fort and had two sons, Owen and Arthur, and several daughters "of whom I know nothing." He refers to Dr. Tomlinson Fort and Judge Moses Fort as being sons of Arthur — which is correct. "Owen Fort's family moved down to Florida, near the line of Florida," he wrote. Owen had two sons, Richard and Noel, he wrote, "and a daughter I know nothing of. She likely died in early life." The authors could make only partial sense of the letter. The reference to Owen

the son of Arthur, who died in Jefferson County, Georgia in 1818 (the area was once in dispute with Florida). Yet the names in Owen's 1818 will do not mention a Richard or Noel. The Cox reference seems to explain "Zachariah Cox Fort" in part. The authors would have gladly dismissed the letter out-of-hand had they not found a reference to a "Nowell" Fort serving in the Revolution from Wilmington District, North Carolina. (State Archives). Further, a Richard Fort bought land from Richard Strother (later of South Carolina) in Edgecombe County, North Carolina February 10, 1785. The authors would like to think that Barnabas Pace was forgetful when he wrote his letter, but on the strength of the North Carolina references there are certain possibilities:

- 1) Thomas Fort, uncle of Arthur (I), fathered or was the grandfather of a Noel Fort in the Johnston-Dobbs area of North Carolina. Thomas' descent is not known.
- 2) Richard, John, or Elias Fort, also uncles of Arthur (I), disinherited a son named Noel or a son who was the father of Noel. There is no mention of a Noel in any of their wills.
- 3) Drury Fort, another brother of Arthur (I), left no will, and the names of his children are not known definitely other than Drury (II) and probably William. He might have fathered Noel.

The authors think that only the first and third of these have much prospect in terms of solving the Noel puzzle. But unquestionably there is a missing piece.

*Eli Fort to Kentucky?* At a family reunion held May 28, 1884 in Springfield, Tennessee, Col. Tomlinson Fort, Jr. is quoted as saying he had found the whereabouts of his grandfather's (Arthur II) "long-lost brother," that he had migrated "from North Carolina to the plains of Kentucky." He identified the brothers as "Elias." The authors found no unaccounted-for Elias in Kentucky and decided the colonel was in error or the newspaper report was wrong.

### Chart 2-3 (from Chart 2-1)

#### Drury Fort

(Note: the following chart is speculative in some respects and should be viewed as the most likely interpretation of available information. The Authors' Notes section gives a number of details regarding the unknowns in the Drury Fort descent.)

DRURY FORT, son of John Fort, is known to have married and had children; he and his wife are shown as belonging to the Mine Creek Baptist Church on "Little Saluda" in Edgefield District, S.C. He was identified by his brother Arthur as "Drury Fort, Sr." in the latter's 1773 will. The name "Drury" appears in the Pace family of North Carolina, and it is assumed he received the name as a result of the close Fort-Pace connection in Johnston County. Late in life he may have married Lydia (Humphreys? Bolton? Butler?) After his death Lydia married John Sawyer and had

Pascagoula Public Library  
Local History & Genealogy Department  
Fort Family History

a son George Sawyer. Drury appears to have died about 1788 in Edgefield District, S.C. His children were:

- 1) DRURY FORT (II), born March, 1755, probably in Johnston County, N.C. In 1780 he married Susannah Williams of Edgefield District, S.C., probably the daughter of Samuel and Jane Williams. Drury was granted land in Camden County, Ga. in 1787 and moved there in 1788 after selling properties derived from his father in Edgefield. In 1789 he served as a member of the state legislature from Camden. Drury returned to South Carolina in the 1802-10 period, settling in Lexington District in the Leesville area. He died there 1818-19; his wife Susannah was still living in the area in 1830. He is known to have had two children and possibly a third:
  - a) DRURY FORT (III) was born 1796 in Georgia, returned with his parents to South Carolina, and apparently migrated later to Decatur County, Ga., then to Monroe County (now Lowndes), Ala., where he lived in the Hayneville area. He died in Hayneville in 1836. Drury married Jane Cannon Fitzpatrick (or Patrick) and by her had John Wolfe Fort, who died without issue, and Sarah Louisa Fort, who married John Givhan and is known to have had descendants.
  - b) JANE WILLIAMS FORT, born Dec. 6, 1790 in Camden County, Ga., married in 1813 Daniel Rambo of Lexington District, S.C. He was born in 1785. They are known to have had 11 children, of which one (Samuel) married two daughters of Arthur Holmes Fort (see later)—Elizabeth and Lydia. Jane died in Columbia, S.C. July 2, 1838 and was buried in the First Baptist Church cemetery; her tomb is supposed to have been destroyed by the burning of Columbia during the Civil War. Daniel Rambo died 1861 in Mitchell County, Ga.
- 2) WILLIAM FORT was born earlier than 1767 and lived all or most of his life in Edgefield District, S.C. Date and place of his death are not known. No known list of his children survived, so the following should be considered as highly tentative:
  - a) DREWRY (or DRURY) FORT was born in Edgefield District, S.C. but lived much of his life in Georgia, possibly in the Milledgeville area. About 1825, however, he and his brothers, William and Lester, migrated to Alabama. Drewry died in Monroe County, Ala. 1838-41. He had married a widow, "Sinha" (Cynthia) Sandford, to whose children he conveyed property in 1838. He apparently had no heirs.
  - b) WILLIAM FORT (II) also moved from Georgia to Alabama about 1825, settling at Indian Springs. His descent is not known.
  - c) LESTER FORT, who was born in Edgefield District, S.C., joined his brothers in the move from Georgia to Alabama; he settled at Grand Bay in Mobile County. Lester married Betsy Kemp. (See Chart 2-14)
  - d) A daughter who married a Mr. Bolton.

In addition, Drury Fort (I) may have had:

- 3) DANIEL FORT, who was of age and living in Camden County, Ga. in 1788. He may have accompanied his brother Drury (II) to that county. Nothing else is known of him.
- 4) ARTHUR HOLMES FORT, born April 25, 1787, died June 13, 1864 in Lexington District, S.C. He married Phebe Corley, daughter of Catlett and Elizabeth Corley, March 7, 1816. She was born Dec. 22, 1795, died Jan. 13, 1856, Lexington, S.C. (See Chart 2-15)
- 5) LOUISA FORT, who married John Eddings shortly after 1800 and had a son, John Drury Fort Eddings.

#### Authors' Notes

*Over-all Comment.* While there are quite a number of puzzles in the Fort genealogy, none has been more frustrating than the attempt to work out a line of descent for Drury Fort. Mrs. Sara C. Fort of Anderson, S.C. collected, from both original and secondary sources, a mass of information on this Edgefield family; she generously offered it to the authors. Unfortunately, neither she nor the authors turned up any wills, estate administrations, or deeds that contained much in the way of firm genealogical information, either names or dates. The arrangement offered in the chart is the authors', but in nearly every respect it follows Mrs. Fort's suggested arrangement.

*Children of Drury Fort (I).* William and Drury (II) sold all or nearly all the property acquired by Drury (I) in the years 1787-88. No will or administration for Drury (I) was found. A Nathan Fort or Ford served on a jury in Edgefield District in 1786 along with men known to have been neighbors of Drury and Arthur Fort. No other record involving Nathan was found in South Carolina, so the authors decided not to list him as a son of Drury (I) on the basis of this one mention. He might have been, however. *Drury II.* His birthday is fixed quite well from the Bible and census records. His name disappears from Camden County, Georgia records after 1802, but it is not entirely certain he returned to South Carolina in that year. He died intestate in Lexington District. His wife's name was established through census and other records.

*Lydia Fort.* Her name appears as a witness on one of the deeds in which Drury Fort's property was sold. It is known that Lydia was Arthur Holmes Fort's mother. If she were the widow of Drury (II) she would have had to have been a second wife since Arthur's birthday of April 25, 1787 is well established. Lydia is known to have remarried and had a son following her Fort husband's death, so she would have been considerably younger than Drury. The alternative arrangement would be to view her as the wife of William Fort, son of Drury (I). This remains a possibility. However, Louisa Fort is apparently ruled out as a daughter of either Drury (II) or William by census records, in the case of Drury, and by family records, in the case of William. If Louisa were a late child of Drury (I) by Lydia, then Arthur Holmes might also have been.

*William Fort.* Making only a few appearances on Edgefield records, this man is a shadowy figure. In 1793 he was administering the estate in Edge-

Pascagoula Public Library  
Local History & Genealogy Department  
Fort Family History

cautions relating to the early emigration from England, which documentation has shown not to be correct. The "Memoirs" provided most of the chart material here and elsewhere dealing with the Georgia group; it is reproduced in some detail because the original book has become quite rare. One is in the New York City public library, and there are a few others in the larger genealogical collections. Much of the anecdotal material which provided so much interest for the book is not carried in this volume for space reasons.

*John P., Jr.* The authors have a copy of a delightful letter written by John P. Fort, Jr. to a distant cousin in 1954 in which he talks about his family. Certain of the chart details came from this letter.

**Chart 2-13 (from Chart 2-2)**

Susannah Fort and Henry Jameson, Samuel Hunter

SUSANNAH FORT, daughter of Arthur Fort (II) and Susannah Tomlinson Whitehead, married first Henry Jameson and second Samuel Hunter. By her first husband she had:

- 1) ELIZABETH FORT JAMESON, born 1814, died in infancy.
- 2) ZACHARIAH TOMLINSON JAMESON, born 1816, died 1821.
- 3) SARAH SOPHIE JAMESON, born 1818, married Dr. George Winn in 1835.
- 4) ROBERT WILLIAM JAMESON, born 1820, married Sarah Caroline Stubbs in 1841.
- 5) SUSANNAH MARGARET JAMESON married Dr. William Thomas in 1839.

By her second husband she had:

- 6) LOUISA EMILY HUNTER who married Dr. John Calderwood in 1853.
- 7) SAMUEL HUNTER (II) who married Cora Solomon in 1863.

Authors' Notes

*Reference.* The chart material came from Georgia State Archives—a microfilm of the "Fort Bible." Other pages of the Bible were missing. Mrs. Mabel Fort Jordan supplied the data from the microfilm.

**Chart 2-14 (from Chart 2-3)**

Lester Fort and Betsy Kemp

LESTER FORT, believed to be the son of William Fort of Edgefield District, S.C. was born in Edgefield District, moved to Georgia for a time, then in 1825 moved to Grand Bay in Mobile County, Ala. He married Betsy Kemp. The couple is known to have had these children:

- 1) DREWERY ALAMANZA FORT lived at Grand Bay and married Jane Tiffin Dees. They had these children:
  - a) LEE LINSON FORT who may later have settled in Mobile.
  - b) DORA FORT who married Dr. F. Sellers of Atlanta, a professor at Mercer College.

c) MARY ALFRED FORT, a doctor, lived at Beaumont, Tex.  
d) ALFRED K. FORT, a dentist, lived at Lake Charles, La.

2) WILLIAM FORT married Georgia Martin and lived in the community of Indian Springs, Ala., which no longer exists. He is known to have had:

a) WILLIAM LESTER FORT married Letitia Ross of New Orleans on Dec. 26, 1883; the marriage was in Lake Charles, La. She was born 1858, died 1935. William and Letitia are both buried at Beaumont, Texas. They had eight children of whom only three are known: Will R. Fort and Emmett Fletcher Fort of Beaumont, and Cora Lee Fort who married a Mr. Corbett and is thought to have lived in Florida.

b) A daughter, name unknown.

3) BENJAMIN FORT lived at Indian Springs and married a Miss Bolton. He had these children:

a) BETSY FORT. *ELIZABETH (ELIZA + HELEN)*  
b) ALAMANZA FORT.  
c) WILLIAM FORT.  
d) HOLLY MIDDLETON FORT.  
e) TRAVIS FORT.  
f) MARY FORT.

4) JAMES FORT, killed in the Civil War.

5) TRAVIS FORT.

6) ELIZABETH FORT married David Summerlin.

7) MARY FORT married John Dees of Hattiesburg, Miss.

8) BETSY FORT.

9) HOLLY (HOLLEY) MIDDLETON FORT married Mary Rickard, daughter of Jacob Rickard and Mary Johnson. They later settled in Monroe County, Ala.

Their children were:

a) MARTHA JANE FORTE.  
b) JAMES TRAVIS FORTE.  
c) GEORGE NATHAN FORTE.  
d) WILLIAM BENJAMIN FORTE.

e) JOHN DENNIS FORTE was born at Chestnut in Monroe County on July 17, 1870 and died March 10, 1966 at Beatrice in Monroe County. He married Alma Jones and had these children: 1) Thomas Jefferson Forte; 2) Mildred Virginia Forte; 3) Mary Maude Forte; 4) John Dennis Forte, Jr.; 5) James Maurice Forte; 6) Alma Louise Forte.

Authors' Notes

*References.* The authors had fragmentary information on this family, supplied by Mrs. Sara C. Fort of Anderson, South Carolina. The list of Lester's children came from Mrs. Cora Lee Corbett. A version from another source omits Travis and Mary, makes Drewery and Alamanza two persons, and adds an Alex Fort. At least one branch, as noted, used a final "e" on the name, and this may have occurred also with other of Lester's children.

Pascagoula Public Library  
Local History & Genealogy Department  
Fort Family History

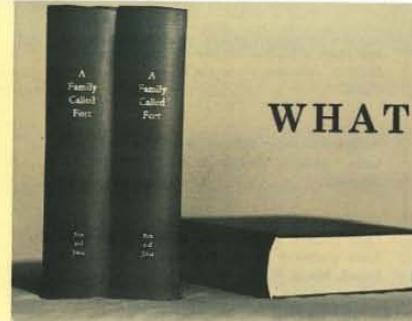
"I was overwhelmed at how beautifully it was written and the amount of research it must have taken." John W. Fort, Bessemer, Alabama.

"A very interesting, informative, and well put-together book." Bill Hanks, Little Rock, Ark.

"A really fine job of gathering family data." James E. Fort, New Orleans, La.

"Beautifully done and most interestingly compiled." Mrs. Arthur H. Fort, Anderson, South Carolina.

Copies of "A FAMILY CALLED FORT" may be ordered from: Homer T. Fort, Jr., 9 Fairfax Court, Midland, Texas 79705. The price is \$21 each (plus sales tax for Texas residents). The price includes mailing costs. You will find the book a perfect solution to some of your gift problems—and many are putting copies aside for grandchildren.



## WHAT THEY SAY

### ABOUT

### "A FAMILY CALLED FORT"

PASCAGOULA LIBRARY  
GENEALOGY COLLECTION  
DO NOT CIRCULATE

"Monumental work . . . carefully compiled and documented genealogy . . . well-arranged . . . modestly priced." William Perry Johnson in "North Carolina Genealogy."

". . . Excellent family history . . . when there is doubt the authors state why, and sources are well defined." Faye Haygood in Longview, Tex. "Morning Journal."

"A genealogical work of great value . . . organized in a way to make it easy for the reader to understand the connections . . . something of a social and econ-

omic study of another 300-year old Southern family." Hugh B. Johnston, Jr. in the Wilson, N. C. "Daily Times."

"One of the newer and more interesting family histories." Mildred Watkins in the Shreveport, La. "Journal."

"How delighted we are . . . sat up until the wee small hours reading it the day it arrived." Mrs. John E. Duvall, Miami, Florida.

"A magnificent job." Stith M. Cain, Whitewater, Wisconsin.

"So nice to have it all in one volume and with the best index I have ever seen in a book!" Mrs. E. W. LeFevre, Eden, Texas.

"A masterful work . . . a great deal of devotion and dedication went into it." Tomlinson Fort, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

"Interesting and entertaining — so much so that it is difficult to lay it down." George M. Forte, Myrtle Beach, S. C.

"Comprehensive beyond any family history I have seen . . . a wonderful thing for all who bear the name or share the blood of old Father Elias." Mary B. Linfield, New Orleans, La.

"A really fine genealogy . . . the simple form makes it so much easier for the layman to understand." Mrs. F. Russell Galbreath, New Smyrna Beach, Fla.

**Pascagoula Public Library  
Local History & Genealogy Department  
Fort Family History**

PRODIGY(R) interactive personal service

03/18/92

7:55 AM

HOMELIFE

TOPIC: GENEALOGY SURNAMES  
TIME: 03/16 3:11 PM

TO: ALL  
FROM: DARLA ROHAN (RFVXB8B)  
SUBJECT: BYNUM RESEARCH ALL

PASCAGOULA LIBRARY  
GENEALOGY COLLECTION  
DO NOT CIRCULATE

*Fort file*

Those of you that descend through William Bynum, son of James and Elizabeth Mizell Bynum, I found a whole book on the Fort family. It supports that Mary Fort did indeed marry William Bynum. The title of the book is A FAMILY CALLED FORT by Homer T. Fort and Drucilla Stovall Jones. Mary Fort was the daughter of John and Elizabeth Jordan Fort. John Fort was the son of Elias Fort and Phillis Champion. John was born c 1665 in Isle of Wight County, VA and married Elizabeth c 1685. He owned land in Surry Co., VA. He died in early 1725 since his will was recorded on March 10, 1725. He and Elizabeth had:

William Fort b c 1685-1690, may have married Alice Foreman, he died 1746 Edgecomb County.

John Fort b. c 1702 m Mary d c 1745

Elias Fort b c 1700 m Olive Pittman d c 1766

George Fort d c 1745

Richard Fort b c 1704-1717 did not marry d c 1746

Thomas Fort b c 1704-1717 m ? d c 1769

Mary Fort m. William Bynum by 1724. Probably in Bertie Precinct, NC in July 1730 when a William Bynum witnessed granting of a dower right by Mary Fort, wife of John Fort who died in 1746.

PASCAGOULA LIBRARY  
GENEALOGY COLLECTION  
DO NOT CIRCULATE

Sarah Fort m Mr. Wall

Hannah Fort b 1705 m John Phillips

I sure hope this has helped some of you get further along. I will look in the book next time I go. I was pressed for time, but it has a whole chapter on Elizabeth Sugars Fort and prob. more. bye for now, Darla

---

READ A MESSAGE

03/19/92

From: JAMES WARWICK (FTCH72A)

Subject: MS-SOUTHEASTERN COS.

Sent on: 03/18 at 04:49 PM

Pat. I received your reply, and just got off the phone with Marie Upton. Her current address is: 32 Autumn Woods Drive, Jackson, MS 39206. I'm writing privately because I don't know if she wants her address publicly. She said she has some copies of "Bullocks Twigs and Branches" available for sale at \$15, but they are not bound, only stapled. I am sending for a copy today, and am also interested in information she may have on the DAVI~~S~~s. I also spoke, yesterday, with Rev. Nash Odom, and wrote to him today. He is going to send me some information on some of my Robeson County lines, including BULLOCKs. My address is: Jim Warwick, 201 Colonial Avenue, Moorestown, NJ 08057. I will send some information to you within the next day or so, and see if we can connect.

JIM in NJ

*Send Bullock data*

**Pascagoula Public Library  
Local History & Genealogy Department  
Fort Family History**

**FORT**

**Mrs. Maude Dees Fort**—Wife of the late County Commissioner Hugh E. Fort, A native of Grand Bay, AL and a resident of Mobile, AL for 15 years died in a local hospital on Thursday, November 22, 1984. Mrs. Fort was a member of the O.E.S. and of the Pleasant Valley United Methodist Church. She is survived by three sisters, Mrs. Naomi Evers of Monroeville, AL, Mrs. Mattie Lee Mosley of Peterman, AL and Mrs. Mary Alice Biggs of Mobile, AL; two brothers, Mr. Theo Dees of Mobile, AL and Mr. Braxton Dees of Peterman, AL; nieces, nephews and other relatives. Funeral services will be held from the chapel of Radney Funeral Home Saturday, November 24, 1984 at 2pm. Interment will be in the Grand Bay Cemetery. Visitation will be at the funeral home on Friday after 5pm. Funeral arrangements are by RADNEY FUNERAL HOME, Dauphin Street Extension, Mobile, AL.

**FORT, ALFRED EARL**

**Mr. Alfred Earl (Todie) Fort**—A native and lifelong resident of Grand Bay died in Ashville, NC Friday, September 8, 1989. He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Wanda Lyndall Fort of Grand Bay; one sister, Mrs. Maxine Chenoweth of Overland Park, KS; nieces, nephews, and other relatives. Funeral services will be held from the chapel of Radney Funeral Home on Monday, September 11, 1989 at 12 noon. Visitation will be at the funeral home Sunday from 5-9 p.m. Interment will be in Grand Bay Cemetery. Funeral arrangements are by RADNEY FUNERAL HOME, 3155 Dauphin Street, Mobile, AL.

PASCAGOULA LIBRARY  
GENEALOGY COLLECTION  
DO NOT CIRCULATE

Pascagoula Public Library  
Local History & Genealogy Department  
Fort Family History

Democrat Star  
May 6, 1984

**WORLD'S ACHIEVEMENTS.**

Our Daily Work in Whirling Wheels,  
The Great Fair of the World's Fair in America,  
Sports and Entertainment, and in  
Universal Products at World's  
Fair in St. Louis, Missouri.

Our Daily Work in Whirling Wheels.

The story of man's achievement is very part of the world is now told fully to the thousands who visit the great World's Fair at St. Louis, the gates to which were opened April 30. It is told in moving machinery, in processes that are going forward to completion, and in finished products; it is told again in flowers and in fruits; it is told in the peace products of education and in the war products that grow upon one from government hill and those that are gathered under canvas.

From the golden victory, aloft on the Hall of Festivals, to the silvery surface of the lagoons, the story is told under the sunray; it is repeated at night when the palaces seem asthetic and the Cascades are resplendent with phosphorescent fire.

Those to whom the story is told stand spell-bound before some of the chapters. The giant prime movers in the Palace of Machinery cause a silence that is akin to fear; the beaters of the throbbing water, tumbling fantastically down the inclines from the Colonnade of States, exercise a hypnotic spell; the wonders of the Orient spread before you by the workers from China, Japan and India, yield in mystification.

It is not until one leaves the fair grounds and his mind is free from the ever-occurring attractions that he has time to marvel at the glory and the greatness of it all.

Open to everyone now is this achievement of a century and a year—the culmination of all that has been done in the wide expanse of territory purchased from France in 1803 and the achievements of all nations in the world since that day.

The grandfairs open the crowds are pouring in from every corner everywhere and the air buzzes with sound—“the roar, martial bands that are scaling fort, the roar of this great peace conference.”

In locomotion, rapidly moving millions are carried over the iron railway and many thus do the bidding of the multitude, sharing the benefits of the great entrance.

over the gates until you have again.

Visit the Palace of Machinery and you see its motion giant engines, some of them measuring so much space as some a three-story house. Their grandeur baffle the eye and, full, great, fly whirling revolvers and glittering pistons, gaily dressed in red and white. They are flying orbits from all the manufacturing centers of the world and are supplying power to everything on the site—a power represented by forty thousand horses all pulling together.

Enter the Palace of Education. Here also, you find life and motion. Students in a manual training school are showing how tools are used. Dear and dumb pupils exemplify the methods in vogue where the sense of touch supplies other senses that are lacking. In college laboratories experiments are being carried on before your eyes.

In the Palace of Electricity the work of modern wizards is going forward before your gaze. In one section you watch a telephone system in full swing and for the first time are shown the mysteries of a switchboard in operation. You have exemplified the action of a quadrupled telegraph instrument by which four telegrams may be sent synchronously over the same wire. Sparks pass from another key and you are told that it is the Marconi system of wireless telegraph in operation. You remember having seen the tall skeleton frames of the stations when making your trip on the Intramural. X-ray apparatus in operation, and by its side Edison's latest wonder in the way of a talking machine, are other exhibits. In another booth you see the process of electro-chemistry, by which graphite for a lead pencil is manufactured with the aid of the fluid that Franklin brought down from the clouds years after this country was purchased from France.

A twentieth century train is in motion in the Palace of Transportation, yet it does not move forward, for a system of cog wheels counteracts the tendency and the motion is therefore only apparent. But when you enter, as you are permitted to do, you feel the sway as if you really were speeding forward, and you hear the rumble of the wheels. Revolving on a pedestal, in the center of this palace is the largest locomotive ever created. It is alive with steam and is set out with the pistons, the force which is being expended there would send it ahead thirty miles an hour on a straightaway track, but

**JUDGE A. B. PARKER.**

(In the first page of the Democrat Star  
was run a biographical sketch of Judge A. B. Parker of New York,

with a biographical sketch of his life, which will be highly interesting to all admirers, not only of himself, but of a most excellent man. He is undeniably the choice of the leading Democrats of the party for the first position in the land and will do honor to the presidency and the nation. Judge Parker is a statesman of great judgment and determination of character. In him may be read the characteristics which marked such men as Disraeli, Bismarck, and Napoleon. Victory will certainly perch upon his banners.

**Death of Mrs. Jane T. Fort.**

Mrs. Jane Tippins Fort, nee Dees, died Tuesday, May 3, after a short illness at her home in Grand Bay, Ala. Mrs. Fort was born in Conecuh county, Alabama, on November 4, 1840. For many years she personally conducted stores and farm. She was kind, gentle and charitable and greatly beloved. She is survived by her husband, three sons, one daughter, and five grandchildren. Dr. A. K. Fort, of Lake Charles, La., and Dr. M. A. Fort, of Macon, Ga., her sons, were at her bedside. The funeral was conducted by Rev. L. N. Brook and the interment made in Grand Bay cemetery. Notably among those in attendance were: Mrs. Fannie Cudaback, Mrs. N. W. Romine, Hon. M. A. Dees, of Moss Point, and Hon. L. C. Dees, of Lake Charles, sisters and brothers of deceased.

**Whooping Cough.**

“In the spring of 1901 my children had whooping cough,” says Mrs. D. W. Cappa, of Cappa, Ala. “I used Chamberlain's Cough Remedy with the most satisfactory results. I think this is the best remedy I have ever seen for ‘whooping cough.’ This remedy keeps the cough loose, lessens the severity, and frequency of the coughing spells and counteracts any tendency toward pneumonia. For sale by McVeigh Young, Scranton, Miss.

Mrs. Hilda Gould has given \$1,000 to a fund to protect girls visiting the St. Louis Fair.

Judge Parker's favorite drink is said to be beerwine. No wonder Mr. Watterson doesn't like him.

The crimes of Kalamazoo are going to clear the streets of that town for the last time, the last to be seen there.

In Jersey City a preacher is captain of a baseball team. Men, and it is

**New Disclosures.**

**Selection of Teachers.**

The board of trustees of the public schools of the city of Pascagoula was held Saturday in the

First Monday, June 4, 1904, for the purpose of selecting all teachers for both white and colored public schools of the city, and applications for positions as teachers of said schools may be filed with the secretary until that date. The school formerly the Scranton public school is now to be known as Central High School, for which a principal, one assistant and two other teachers will be selected, gentlemen being preferred for principal and assistant. Two teachers will be selected for the Pascagoula primary schools.

By authority of the board, this eighth day of May, 1904.

H. B. EVERITT, Secretary.  
May 6, 1904. 13-31.

**Bids For School Building Contract.**

Sealed bids will be received by J. W. Dean, clerk of the board of mayor and aldermen of the city of Pascagoula, until 10 a.m. June 2, 1904, for letting the contract for furnishing a new public school building in the said city of Pascagoula, with all parts complete, including steam heating furnaces and plumbing as per plans and specifications by Ryan & Ryan on file with the said J. W. Dean, such building to be completed and ready for delivery not later than ninety days after contract is signed.

Each bid, to be considered, must be accompanied by a certified check for two per cent of amount of bid or its equivalent in cash, which will be paid to the treasurer of the city of Pascagoula equal such check or deposit to be held as a forfeit in case the unsuccessful bidder shall fail to sign contract or make bond as hereinafter required, otherwise to be returned. Each bid with certified check or cash deposit to be enclosed in a sealed envelope addressed to J. W. Dean, clerk of Pascagoula.

The amount of all bids shall be stated in both words and figures and will be opened and considered by the board of mayor and aldermen. A bid deposit amounting to \$24 of June 2, 1904, the bid being reserved to reject any and all bids, as well as the right to postpone signing of contract until the bonds of the city to be issued for raising funds therefor have been sold.

The successful bidder will be required to furnish bond conditioned for the faithful performance of the contract, with sureties to be approved by the mayor and building committee of the city of five thousand dollars within ten days after the board of mayor and aldermen shall approve the signing of contract.

Terms of payment to be cash on completion of contract and acceptance of building by building committee unless other terms are specified, and bidder

paying all expenses in connection therewith.

By authority of the board of mayor and aldermen, this the 6th day of May,

1904.

H. B. EVERITT,

Clerk.

May 6, 1904.

**SCRAN**

**LATEST  
AND MOST  
UNIQUE  
LINE  
OF**

**NOVELTIES,  
FINE CHINA,  
AND  
GLASSWARE**

**DEJE**

**SI**

**Bridge & Beach  
Cook and  
Heating  
Stoves**

**Ha**

**L. & J.  
White  
Ship  
Carpenters**

**APPROVED**

**H. B. EVERITT**

**C. A. ALBRIGHT**

**M. S. DEES**

**B. L. COLE**

**W. E. CO**